

## **Values and Principles to Guide Indigenous Relations at Your Toronto Zoo**

**Date:** October 6, 2023

**To:** Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo

**From:** Director, Indigenous Relations

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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This report recommends that the Toronto Zoo Board of Management adopt the values and principles set out in the City of Toronto's Reconciliation Action Plan and Attachment 1 to this report. These values and principles will be the foundation for and guide your Zoo's programs, initiatives and relationships with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Director, Indigenous Relations recommends that:

1. The Toronto Zoo Board of Management adopt the values and principles set out in Attachment 1 to this report, that will guide the Zoo's programs, initiatives and relationships with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendations in this report.

### **DECISION HISTORY**

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At its meeting on December 17, 2022, the Toronto Zoo's Board of Management received a presentation by the Director, Indigenous Relations, titled "City of Toronto's Reconciliation Action Plan and Your Toronto Zoo".

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.ZB1.2>

On April 6, 2022, Toronto City Council unanimously adopted the Reconciliation Action Plan. Recommendation 11a, directed the Boards of City Service Agencies (excepting the Toronto Library Board and the Toronto Police Services Board) to adopt the values and principles set out in Reconciliation Action Plan "as a guide for future reconciliation efforts".

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2022/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-222932.pdf>

## COMMENTS

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To advance truth, justice, and reconciliation with Indigenous People, it is imperative that work undertaken by your Zoo be grounded in values and principles that embody and promote trust, right relations, truth, humility and kindness.

Toronto City Council unanimously adopted the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) on April 6, 2022. The RAP sets out 28 actions to guide the City's efforts towards truth, justice, and reconciliation with Indigenous People in Toronto.

When Toronto City Council adopted the RAP, it also directed City agencies to adopt the values and principles set out in the RAP as a guide to reconciliation efforts. These values and principles found in Attachment 1 and will be foundational to the Zoo's work with, and for Indigenous People.

Adopting these values and principles commits the Toronto Zoo to working with and for Indigenous People based on a set of values and guiding principles that are focused on:

- Accountability
- Decolonization and Power-shifting
- Good Mind
- Inclusivity
- Kindness
- Right Relations and Right Relations in our Relationships with Each Other
- Respect
- Seven Grandfather Teachings – A fundamental set of values held by many Indigenous Nations that include the collective teachings of Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility and Truth.
- Truth
- Ten Guiding Principles of Truth and Reconciliation as shared by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to assist Canadians moving forward.

As we commit to our mission of "Connecting People, Animals and Conservation Science to Fight Extinction", valuing and adopting a more holistic approach in our programs, initiatives and relationships will be essential.

## **CONTACT**

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Jennifer Franks  
Director, Indigenous Relations  
[jfranks@torontozoo.ca](mailto:jfranks@torontozoo.ca)  
(416) 392-5968

## **SIGNATURE**

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Jennifer Franks  
Director, Indigenous Relations

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1 - Values and Principles to Guide Toronto Zoo's Reconciliation Efforts